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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

BRIEFS

BIBLE GIVEAWAY PLAN STARTING AT LIFEWAY

DALLAS (BP) — LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville has begun giving away Bibles to help churches share the Word of God. LifeWay President and CEO Thom S. Rainer told messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Dallas last week. The program, called Share the Word. Together., is one of LifeWay's newest initiatives to provide trustworthy biblical resources across the nation and around the world.

TASK FORCE DELIVERS EVANGELISM REPORT

DALLAS (BP) — Lay persons, pastors, churches, state conventions, and Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entities have a role in an evangelism renewal plan messengers adopted June 13 at the 2018 annual meeting in Dallas. Messengers approved an eight-pronged approach recommended by an Evangelism Task Force that Steve Gaines appointed in 2017 in his final term as SBC president. Task Force vice chairman Adam W. Greenway presented the plan to messengers after first releasing the document June 11. For the full text of the report, visit tinyurl.com/evangelize1.

RAMSEY: LEAD OUT IN EASING DEBT BURDEN

DALLAS (BP) — Leading personal finance speaker and author Dave Ramsey, addressing the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Dallas on June 12, urged pastors to lead people out of debt by teaching them what the Bible says about money. "When you stand up in front of your congregation, you're looking at a large number of people who do not have the ability to handle their money," he said. Ramsey, CEO of Ramsey Solutions and author of Financial Peace University, urged pastors to "quit preaching tithe lessons to broke people. Let's teach them how to get on a budget."



ATTENDANCE RISES — Messengers to the 2018 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 12-13 in Dallas nearly doubled in number compared to last year's annual meeting in Phoenix. Unofficial estimates, including family and visitors who attended the open sessions, were pegged at nearly 15,000 people. (BP photo)

Messengers double at Dallas meeting

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Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., received 68.6% of the vote for president in the June 12 election.

The only other candidate was Ken Hemphill, special assistant to the president at North Greenville University, which is affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention. A former president of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Hemphill received 31.2% of messengers' votes.

Greear will replace Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis, who had served two terms as president and was ineligible for reelection. A.B. Vines, pastor of New Seasons Church in San Diego, Ca., was elected first vice president. Felix Cabrera, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Central in Oklahoma City, was elected second vice president.

Elections

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John Yeats, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, was reelected as recording secretary, and Don Currence, minister of children and administration at First Church in Ozark, Mo., was elected registration secretary.

At a press conference following his election, Greear said his priorities as president will include Gospel focus, diversity, evangelism, church planting, collegiate ministry, and engaging younger Baptists in the SBC's cooperative mission.

He also said women should "sit at the seats of influence" in the convention and that Southern Baptist entities and churches must be "safe places for women to report abuse."

Force for good

Pence's address on June 13 called Southern Baptists to pray for America, and he commended the SBC as "one of the greatest forces for good" in the world.

The vice president drew multiple standing ovations as he spoke of the sanctity of human life and the country of Israel, among other issues.

Prior to Pence's appearance, messengers made two motions to amend the convention's agenda to exclude the vice president's address. The first attempt was defeated by messenger vote, and the second was ruled out of order because the convention had already dealt with the issue.

Two motions referred to the SBC executive committee in Nashville for action sought to prevent secular political leaders from addressing future SBC annual meetings. A point of order Wednesday expressing opposition to Pence's address was ruled "not well taken" by the chair.

Patterson situation

Responding to the May 30 firing of Southwestern Seminary

UNIQUE GREETING

The city of Dallas welcomed nearly 15,000 messengers, guests, and visitors to the Southern Baptist Convention's 2018 annual meeting in a number of special ways, one of which was projecting the meeting's theme logo, Testify, from the Omni Hotel downtown by orchestrating the lighting from certain rooms in the facility. (BP photo)

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AUG 2 2018



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

On to next year

The meetings have adjourned, exhibits have been dismantled, and messengers have gone home. Another annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention is in the books. Southern Baptists being Southern Baptists, there was of course plenty of fussing and complaining but there was a lot more praise and worship.

I was unable to attend this year's annual meeting last week in Dallas, but the ever-amazing world of technology brought the entire meeting to my desk in the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson.

As has been the case for most of the annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Mississippi Baptist Convention I have witnessed in 27 years at The Baptist Record, it seemed that messengers to this annual meeting couldn't work fast enough to settle all the business tedium, electioneering, and side issues so they could get back to praise and worship and gratefulness to our Heavenly Father and his Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

That truly makes attending these annual meetings worth all the associated expenses and exhausting travel time and living out of a suitcase for days and being inconvenienced by huge lunch crowds and everything else involved in being there. It's worth it to return home physically exhausted but spiritually electrified.

Convention attendees heard an address by U.S. Vice President Mike Pence. That was a big deal. Many national leaders have spoken to the convention by satellite and video, but not as often live and in person as was the case with Pence.

There were some messengers who didn't like the idea of a secular politician appearing before the convention, and others simply didn't like the disruption to the carefully-timed convention schedule. All was smoothed out by the time Pence arrived, however, and his appearance was well received.

Messengers elected a new SBC president to replace Steve Gaines, senior pastor of Bellevue Church outside Memphis, whose steady hand on the rudder has made for two years of relative peace and stability for the convention's entities and their missions.

Some observers believe the new president, J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham,

N.C., will be a change agent across the convention. Some of those observers are saying that with a considerable dose of excitement, and some are saying it with a touch of fear. Change usually generates those kinds reactions in people.

For Greear's part, he said in a post-election news conference June 11 that he wants to encourage unity as he wades into his first term as president.

"What I don't think this [election] represents is a passing of the baton where the older generation fades off into the sunset and the new, young generation is in charge. We walk forward together," he said.

However, it appears he won't shy away from the tough issues that are bound to come along for any president of the SBC — the largest Protestant denomination in the world.

"Every few years we have to ask, 'What's the best way to cooperate? What are things we did 100 years ago, or 50 years ago, that are no longer as effective? ... We're praying for pastors and members, for the spirit of God to move them to be the church that we need in our generation,'" he said.

Greear will be backed up by an impressive array of convention officers. Messengers elected A.B. Vines, the African American pastor of New Seasons Church in San Diego, Ca., as first vice president. Felix Cabrera, Hispanic pastor of Iglesia Bautista Central in Oklahoma City, was elected second vice president.

John Yeats, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, was reelected as recording secretary, and Don Currence, minister of children and administration at First Church in Ozark, Mo., was elected registration secretary. Like Greear, both of these men are white.

That speaks well of Southern Baptists' public commitment to diversify the convention from the lily white complexion it has sported virtually since its beginnings. We appear to be making progress, sometimes painfully, and sometimes by leaps and bounds, but it's progress nonetheless. Even the doubters can't truthfully deny that fact.

The 2019 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention will be held June 11-12 in Birmingham, AL — close enough to home for every Mississippi Baptist to consider attending. Give that some thought and prayer. You won't regret it.

A Positive Future

A student recently asked me, "How do you feel about the future of the Southern Baptist Convention?" He was surprised by my answer, "Very positive." He replied, "Don't some of the current problems mean the convention is in trouble?" My answer was, "No, not really." He asked for some explanation and here are the reasons I shared with him:

■ First, God sustains any ministry riveted on His purpose. Our reason for having a denomination is expanding God's Kingdom. He will sustain us as long as we are focused on His overarching purpose. Our vitality has never depended on human leadership, but on God's power.

■ Secondly, current problems are just that — current problems. We have had serious problems in the past and God has helped us solve them. We may have even more serious problems in the future and God will help us handle those as well.

The tendency is (every year it seems) to focus on the issues at hand and pronounce them "the most serious problems we have ever faced." There are real issues on the table this year, but let's avoid every generation's tendency to ignore historical perspective and overestimate current challenges.

■ Thirdly, airing problems openly means our processes are working, not failing. Southern Baptists do almost all our business in public. Our annual convention is a public meeting, as are most sessions of each of the boards which govern our entities. Secular corporations and other religious groups have the same problems (or more) than we do, but they are not as public about their business.



Guest opinion

with Jeff Iorg

When Baptists learn about and face up to problems, that means our processes are working — sometimes methodically or haltingly, but they are working.

■ Finally, when faced with important decisions like choosing leaders, clarifying positions, or correcting problems, the messengers almost always make the right decisions. The common piety and common sense of prayerful Baptists making important decisions has been a hallmark of convention meetings I have attended for the past 30 years.

As a leader, a part of my role is defining reality. Denying difficult dilemmas does not diminish them. Making them more than they are, however, is also a mistake. May God give us the grace to admit mistakes and face challenges, while maintaining proper perspective on current problems and not losing hope for the future.

Iorg is president of Gateway Seminary in suburban Los Angeles. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style.



Messengers to the 2018 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 12-13 in Dallas voted on 20 motions and 16 resolutions. (BP photo)

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Miss. church recognized at missionary sending

DALLAS (BP and local reports) — A Mississippi Baptist church was held up as a faithful example of the Great Commission during the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Sending Celebration at the SBC 2018 annual meeting in Dallas.

Fiodor and Galina Baraniuk, newly appointed missionaries to Europe, grew up in the former Soviet Union where life was "difficult for Christians," Galina said. The two came to faith in Christ at a young age in the Soviet Union and later moved to the United States.

They are being sent to the mission field by Meadow Brook Baptist Church in Byhalia. "Through our church, God moved our hearts for European people," Galina said.

IMB's mission

Marked by testimonies and prayer for the approximately 11,700 people groups around the world, outgoing IMB President David Platt reminded messengers that the SBC exists first and foremost for the spread of the Gospel.

"Tonight we have the opportunity to remember the reason we came together in the first place. We exist to combine the efforts of our churches for the spread of the Gospel in the world," Platt said during IMB's sending celebration on the evening of June 12.

Platt has announced that he will be leaving the top spot at IMB to return to being a pastor.

During what could be Platt's final Sending Celebration, he introduced 47 newly appointed missionaries approved by IMB trustees during their June 11 meeting prior to the start of the annual meeting.

The celebration also recognized 32 journeymen, recent college graduates who will serve internationally as full-time, fully-funded church planters for two to three years. All of them are going to "people and places where the Gospel has not yet gone," Platt said.

The celebration emphasized the importance of the local church in identifying, nurturing, and supporting missionaries. Platt introduced a new resource for churches entitled Foundations, a magazine-style summary of the biblical and theological foundations of what the IMB does around the world.

Platt underscored the cooperative nature of Southern Baptists' global evangelistic efforts. "We have given together all year long. By God's grace through you, the IMB is on firm financial ground so tonight we're going to pray together and we're going to send together," he said.

Missions drumbeat

The new missionaries along with local church representatives entered the hall to the beating of African drums, which heightened the excitement and anticipation of the evening.

Meghan, a journeyman to Southeast Asia whose last name could not be used due to security considerations, opened the service with her story.

"The stories we tell you are glimpses into how our churches played their role in our call to missions. I'm from a small church of 100 people, and I'm the first



SOLEMN MOMENT — Southern Baptist messengers pray for people groups around the world who need to know the Lord Jesus Christ, during the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Sending Celebration at the SBC's 2018 annual meeting June 12 in Dallas. An envelope was placed in each chair before the service began and contained a card that bore the name of one of the 11,700 separate people groups that need to be reached with the Gospel. (BP photo courtesy of IMB)

missionary we've sent out in 60 years," she said.

The 79 new workers represent both large and small churches in large cities and small towns in the United States and abroad.

Jason and Kim Milton, being sent by Auburndale Church in Louisville, Ky., spent their careers "climbing the corporate ladder, but the more we served our church the more we felt called to missions," Jason said.

"Through our church, which has a heart for the nations, we learned from missionaries and began working with refugees," Kim explained.

The couple, along with their four children, will serve in Kenya.

Praying for all

Platt also led messengers to pray by name for people groups around the world, instructing the audience to open an envelope placed on their chairs before the service.

"There are an estimated 11,700 distinct ethnic, or people, groups in the world. In this room, we have about that many people, which means the card you are holding is most likely not matched by anyone else in this room."

ON THEIR WAY — Fiodor and Galina Baraniuk, newly appointed missionaries to Europe, share their testimonies during the International Mission (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Sending Celebration at the SBC's 2018 annual meeting June 12 in Dallas. A Mississippi Baptist church was identified as the sending church for the Baraniuks. (BP photo courtesy of IMB)

"For the next few minutes, the responsibility of praying for that people group is upon you," Platt said.

Together, the audience prayed for people groups with little or no access to the Gospel, for those that are less than two percent Christian, and for those with a significant number of believers where churches are able to multiply.

Before the prayer, Platt reminded the audience, "We are about to talk to God... There are 7.2 billion people on this planet and right now, we have His attention in this hall."

As the service concluded, Southern Baptists scattered across the hall to lay hands on and pray for those being sent out.

God's call

"With 2.8 billion in the world who have yet to hear the Gospel and a room of 10,000 people who have the Gospel, God may be calling out more than just these 79," Platt said.

He challenged the audience by a show of hands to commit to ask God, "Do you want me to go, too?" Across the hall, hands raised.

Referring to Southern Baptists' tradition of voting on resolutions and other matters with raised ballots during their annual meetings, Platt concluded, "With these hands raised, my prayer is that this may be the most eternally fruitful vote cast in this room in these two days."

Over the past several years in towns and cities across America, a new traffic help has shown up at stop light corners. When the light changes from red, there may be a green arrow allowing the people in their proper lane to turn left. It stays on for a while and then sometimes will turn red and then begin to blink a yellow caution arrow. Some just go from the green arrow to a yellow blinking caution arrow. What does that mean?

For those who have been driving for a long time and have never seen that configuration, it takes some learning to realize that the arrow is making a blinking yellow caution that you can with care and a clear traffic pattern, turn when all is safe. I think it's a great help to keep traffic moving where there is no traffic coming. The problem is that sometimes people do not know what it means and they think when the green arrow is gone they cannot proceed even when traffic is clear.

Recently, I was behind a person who missed the green light and sat there for what seemed like 30 minutes while the caution blinking yellow arrow was giving them opportunity to move forward cautiously. No, they just sat there waiting for the light to turn back to red and finally after what seemed like 30 - 45 minutes, it turned red. I started to honk my horn and then I thought better of it. Then I thought maybe if I just gently bump them they will know they can go forward, but I thought even less of that idea. I just sat there while the light finally turned red. After the cross traffic went, we got back to the green arrow. I eased on out and proceeded.

We might as well get used to the yellow blinking caution arrow because it's found all across our land. It really does help when you know what it's trying to tell you and you are permitted to go ahead and turn when the coast is clear.

The reason I mention this is because many of our churches come up against a blinking caution light and feel like it means stop and never move forward



What Do the Flashing Caution Arrows Mean?

again. There are things that happen in our churches that are moments of pause and reflection and evaluation of a situation and then moving forward and making progress — but no, it's like the car that was sitting in front of me. Sometimes they just see a caution light and interpret that it means stop and never move again. Let me give you a few examples.

One cautionary moment that could come in a church's life is the loss of a leader. Often it is a heartbreaking, grief experience when a church loses its pastor or a staff member sometimes through death and other times because they feel led to go to another place of service. The church finds it so hard to face the future without their strong, caring shepherd leader. I understand that but like the caution arrow, it's okay to pause long enough to evaluate the situation, gather yourself together, then by God's grace and help, begin to move forward even though it will not be with the previous leader.

The Church of Jesus is not built on earthly leadership but on heavenly

leadership. God will provide leaders who will come and eventually go, who will serve His people and serve Him with glory. We must not be stymied, frozen, or stuck simply because a leader changes in our church. We can celebrate those leaders who God has sent to us through the years, but we will also confidently trust Him as we move through that moment and move into the vision He has for our future. Don't get stuck at the blinking caution lights of life.

Another one of those caution lights may be at the point of a lull in a church's growth or activities or financial support. Immediately the naysayers will say, "Oh, the good times are all in the past and there's very little future left for us." Not so. It can be that way and you can sit at the caution light all day, all decade, all life if you want to, but simply pause and look at the situation. See what God has done for you and what He promises He will do for you. Don't miss the blessings ahead by just sitting at the blinking light.

A third caution light might be a lack of confidence. I say confidence, meaning faith in God. There will always be those things that we come upon that we do not see how in this world or the world to come we could ever get through it, except for the power and grace of God. It's like Israel in the Old Testament. Moses led them from Egyptian bondage all the way across the desert to Kadesh Barnea and there before them was the Promise Land. Did they go in? No. No, they didn't because there was a caution light there. The blinking arrow was pointing the way but they ignored the opportunity and chose to listen to the faithless spies' report that said they could not take this land. There are giants over there. There are good things, sure, but there are so many bad things we will stay where we are.

Now I know it wasn't something wrong with the future; something was wrong with their faith. God wanted them to trust Him. He had promised the land to them. He had brought them that far. He wanted them to move forward and they wouldn't do it. Have you in your own personal life and maybe in your corporate life as a believer with other believers in your church had those moments of lack of confidence and faith in God that you couldn't even imagine moving forward? You need to say, "God, we're following you." The future is in God's hands. The brightness of the future for God's people is to say, "We believe You. We will follow You. We are focused on You." For Israel, there would be 40 barren years come and go until finally a generation of people arose who said, "God, we believe You. We will go into the land." Sure, all around us every day in so many ways we are constantly facing the caution blinking lights that come before us. God says, "See where you are. See where I want you to be. Now go ahead and move forward. Don't get stuck on stop."

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Revivals & Homecomings



SOUTH NETTLETON CHURCH, NETTLETON: Homecoming 2018; Bryan Burge, speaker. Services were followed by lunch and afternoon singing with the Master's Quartet.

► **Shuqualak Church,** Shuqualak: Revival, June 24 - 27; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 2 p.m. afternoon service; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Russell Mord, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music; Larry W. Yarber, pastor.
► **Hebron Church, Grenada:** Homecoming, June 24, 10 a.m., followed by potluck

lunch; Howard Beam, speaker; Wesley Davis, music.
► **Unity Church, Moselle:** 40th homecoming, June 24; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; Alex Hodge, speaker; Ron Swindall, interim pastor.
► **Pilgrim Rest Church,** Ethel: Homecoming and re-

vival, June 24 - 27; Sun., service, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Sun. - Wed., 7 p.m.
► **Mars Hill Church, Petal:** 95th anniversary homecoming, July 8; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by dinner, special music, and sharing; Bill Brown, speaker; Craig Cluff, pastor.

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EWH MSCTOVD ZNHZBNHO RVN IVX
RNVD EWH RVXCOCESVC VR EWH
YVNGO

Clue: M = K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ezekiel 20:20

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 21, 2018

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

CMM

CHURCH MUSIC MISSISSIPPI

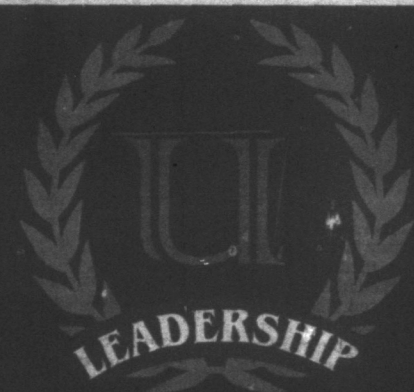
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6:00-8:45 p.m.

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Brookhaven

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2018

6:00-9:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church
Brookhaven

Visit www.msleadershipu.org for registration and lists of classes
offered!

For more information, please contact Discipleship/Family Ministry at
601-292-3284 or e-mail tpresson@mbcb.org.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTERS' RETREAT

MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018

8:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

RIISING SON RETREAT CENTER

444 LAKE ROAD

FRENCH CAMP, MS 39745

~ KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ~

Tommy Gillon, Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus
Stan Weatherford, Copiah Baptist Association

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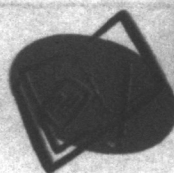
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Church Financial Resources

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A Financial
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**Make an eternal investment with your
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Missions Mobilization of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board invites you to participate in the Home Building Project in Malaysia. For the 8th year in a row, we are collecting VBS offerings to build longhouses in Malaysia. Please consider setting a goal for your VBS to collect \$1,400 to provide a home for a family in Malaysia. The offerings received will purchase the building materials. Missions Mobilization will send the volunteer construction teams to provide the labor, alongside the Malaysian families. In the past six years 608 decisions have been made for Christ and 371 homes have been built.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/MSLonghouse> for promo materials. Contact Missions Mobilization at 601-292-3398 or cmunn@mbcb.org for more information.

MBF

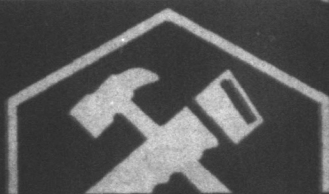
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JULY 28-30, 2018

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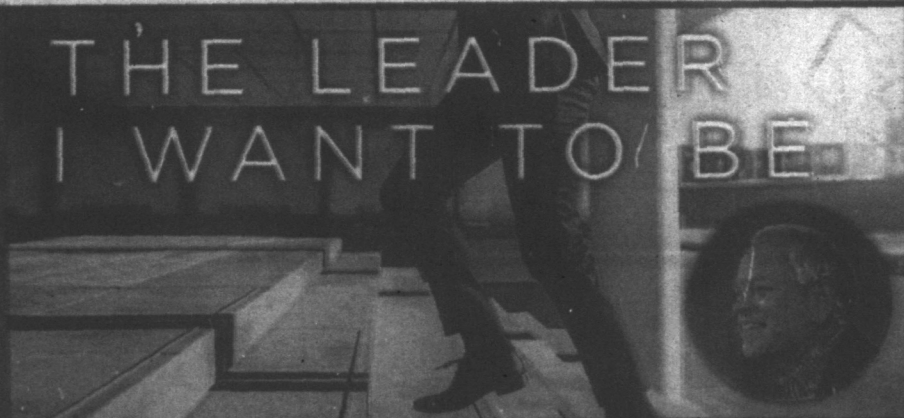
HEBREWS 13:20-21

SARASOTA CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

If you would like to be certified in teaching English as a second language, tutoring children and youth, or adult reading and writing, this conference is for you. Additional training will be offered for certified tutors. Sponsored by WMLUSA. For more information, visit www.mbcn.org/event/state-literacy-missions-training or contact Cindy Heimbech, State Literacy Missions Coordinator, at cindyheimbech@men.com or 862-417-3844.

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THE LEADER I WANT TO BE



AUGUST 16, 2018

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Supper is served at 6:00 p.m.

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Parkway Baptist Church
117 Sgt. Prentiss Dr.
Natchez, MS 39120

September 13, 2018
New Palestine Baptist Church
2336 Palestine Rd.
Picayune, MS 39466

October 25, 2018
Forest Baptist Church
439 E. 1st St.
Forest, MS 39074

November 6, 2018
First Baptist Church Eupora
520 W. Fox Ave.
Eupora, MS 39744

November 8, 2018
Hillcrest Baptist Church
5950 Terry Rd.
Byram, MS 39272

For questions, contact
Discipleship & Family Ministry at
tpresson@mbcb.org.
To register, visit
www.tinyurl.com/2018SmallChurch.

Pray this day for...

June 22 - July 12, 2018

"praying at all times in the Spirit... To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."
Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Michael & Sarah Prewitt**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Eugenia Putnam**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Tracy Putnam**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **John & Deborah Royals**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through regional office support & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Jonathan & Bethany Sharp**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Janna Smith**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through regional office support & church planting.

Pray for: **Karl & Peggy Wallace**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through mission administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Regina White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Charles & Shannon Worthy**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Allen**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **David & Laurie Bledsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Matthew Burks**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through general evangelism.

Pray for: **Rebekah Clark**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through youth evangelism.

Pray for: **Cindy DeMars**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Guy DeMars**, missionary ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through hospitality coordination.

Pray for: **Aaron & Tiffany Epps**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

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HOUSE TOPS

New SBC president Greear calls for unity

DALLAS (BP) — After a Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) election many observers believe was pivotal, presidential victor J.D. Greear struck a conciliatory tone during a press conference June 12 in response to questions about whether his presidency signals a sea change.

Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., was elected SBC president only hours before, receiving more than two-thirds of the vote. Ken Hemphill, former president of Southwestern Seminary and administrator at North Greenville University in South Carolina, was also nominated for the convention's top office.

In his opening remarks, Greear reaffirmed six priorities that he outlined when his candidacy was announced earlier this year: Gospel focus, diversity, evangelism, church planting, collegiate ministry, and engaging younger Baptists in the SBC's cooperative mission.

When asked whether he embodies the changing face of the SBC, Greear said, "What I don't think this [election] represents is a passing of the baton where

the older generation fades off into the sunset and the new, young generation is in charge. We walk forward together."

He extended friendly gestures to Hemphill and messengers who supported Hemphill. "Ken Hemphill has been a friend for a long time. He's a godly man... He would have been a fine leader of the Southern Baptist Convention."

He added, "I hope the 31% who voted for Ken... would see I want to be a president that goes forward with them, because they are a necessary part of the body of Christ."

Greear's call for cooperation also reached across lines of gender and ethnicity. He described efforts toward greater ethnic diversity among SBC leadership as a "recognition that it's something we desperately need in the days to come," rather than a mere "act of generosity" by those already in seats of power.

Emphasizing his agreement with The Baptist Faith and Message (2000) on the role of men and women in the home and church, Greear said he wants convention offices and agencies to be "a place where women sit

"What I don't think this [election] represents is a passing of the baton where the older generation fades off into the sunset and the new, young generation is in charge. We walk forward together."

J.D. Greear

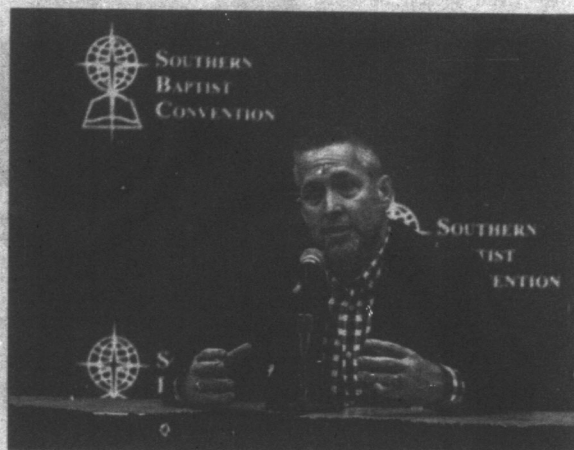
SBC president

at the seats of influence.... There are perspectives that women bring to the conversation that men are not always aware of, because they don't have the same experiences."

When asked about plans to help women feel welcome, heard, valued, and safe in Southern Baptist churches in light of recent news stories about sexual immorality and assault, Greear charged Christian leaders to begin strengthening their policies and practices.

"We have to be safe places for women to report abuse. We have to be very quick — and by quick I mean immediate — in reporting the proper things to authorities," Greear said. "There is an education problem in Southern Baptist churches, I think, because not everyone understands the laws."

Calls for a convention-wide database to track sexual abusers have risen recently, coming from both inside and outside the SBC. Asked to comment on a messenger's motion earlier in the day to explore the feasibility of a database, Greear acknowledged that such



NEW PRESIDENT — On the heels of an election many Southern Baptists believe was pivotal, J.D. Greear struck a conciliatory tone during a press conference June 12 at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting. (BP photo)

initiatives are difficult, since Southern Baptist churches are autonomous and not under direction of SBC leadership.

He described convention leaders, including himself, as "very open to a greater transparency that prioritizes the safety of the victim."

Greear also fielded questions about the role of state conventions in Southern Baptist life and declining baptism rates across the SBC.

He expressed appreciation for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, his home state, and praised the "long legacy" of church planting and other vital ministries provided by state conventions.

Greear affirmed the need for all ministries to conduct

regular reviews of budgets and other resources to analyze their effectiveness, but denied that calls for such policies are "hostile" to state conventions. Instead, he described them as standard practice.

"Every few years we have to ask, 'What's the best way to cooperate?' What are things we did 100 years ago, or 50 years ago, that are no longer as effective?"

On declining baptism rates, he said the numbers indicate "a lot of unhealthy and sick churches" and that SBC leaders can "champion" and provide resources for evangelism.

"We're praying for pastors and members, for the spirit of God to move them to be the church that we need in our generation."

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

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via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

DALLAS

cont. from p. 1

President Paige Patterson by the school's trustee executive committee, there several motions and messenger questions.

Among the accusations that led to Patterson's dismissal were comments he made over the years about women that were deemed offensive by some observers, and how he handled reports of alleged rapes while president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and later at Southwestern Seminary.

Some messengers apparently felt the trustee executive committee overstepped its bounds in firing Patterson. Following debate on the convention floor, messengers defeated a motion that would have removed all trustee executive committee members from the board immediately.

A separate motion was referred for action to Southwestern Seminary, asking that the full trustee board reconsider Patterson's firing.

Some messengers also apparently felt the trustee executive committee overstepped its bounds. Following debate on the convention floor, messengers defeated a motion that would have removed all trustee executive committee members from the board immediately.

A separate motion was referred to Southwestern Seminary asking the full board to reconsider Patterson's firing.

Patterson voluntarily stepped down from his previously-scheduled commitment to preach the convention sermon at the Dallas meeting. Kie Bowman, a Southwestern Seminary trustee who does not currently serve on the executive committee, was selected at last year's convention to be the alternate convention preacher for this year, and he delivered the convention sermon after Patterson withdrew.

Meanwhile, interim Southwestern Seminary president Jeffrey Bingham told messengers during his report to messengers that his priority is to "create a safe environment and a campus culture that protects and cares for the victims of abuse." He also expressed confidence in the seminary's trustee executive committee.

Women's issues

On the heels of the Patterson issue and numerous other complaints about the treatment of women by the SBC, two resolutions addressed the dignity and protection of women. One resolution was "on the dignity and worth of women on the one hundredth anniversary of women as messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention." The other resolution dealt with abuse.

Two motions on protecting churches from sexual predators were referred for action to the SBC executive committee, as was a motion asking the executive committee to study biblical



SBC OFFICERS — J.D. Greer (center), pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., and new president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will lead with a diverse slate of officers including (left to right) John Yeats, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, recording secretary; Felix Cabrera, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Central in Oklahoma City, second vice president; A.B. Vines, pastor of New Seasons Church in San Diego, first vice president; and Don Currence, minister of children and administration at First Church, Ozark, Mo., registration secretary. (BP photo)

authority for a woman to serve as SBC president.

All six SBC seminary presidents addressed the issue of sexual abuse and misconduct during their reports.

Two seminary presidents, Chuck Kelley of New Orleans Seminary and R. Albert Mohler Jr. of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., said the institutions they lead believe the Bible's teaching on gender precludes women from service in some faculty roles, but added women do hold teaching and administrative roles at both seminaries.

ERLC report

During the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) report, ERLC President Russell Moore announced the ERLC will partner with LifeWay Research, a survey subdivision of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, to conduct a study on the extent of abuse in churches.

Beyond the convention floor, a panel discussion in the exhibit hall considered "sexual abuse in the church," and the ERLC sponsored another panel discussion on Gospel sexuality in a #MeToo culture.

Two actions by messengers dealt with ERLC. A motion was defeated that would have defunded ERLC by shifting its portion of the 2018-19 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget to the International Mission Board.

Later, ERLC trustee chairman Trevor Atwood, lead pastor of City Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn., moved that the Committee on Nominations' report be amended to grant a second term to trustee Dan Anderson, pastor of Prairie Hills Southern Church in Augusta, Ga., which the committee had proposed to deny him.

Messengers approved Atwood's amendment before adopting the Committee on Nominations report.

IMB/NAMB

At a Tuesday evening commissioning service, the International Mission Board (IMB) sent out 79 new missionaries and led messengers in prayer for all 11,700 people groups in the world.

During the IMB report, departing president David Platt urged Southern Baptists to focus on the work of missionaries on the field rather than the board's search for his successor as he transitions back to local church ministry.

MS POSITIONS

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The North American Mission Board (NAMB) report included presentation of a report by a disciple-making task force appointed two years ago by NAMB and LifeWay Christian Resources.

In addition, NAMB President Kevin Ezell reported that the board's church plants are healthy and effective overall, with plants 67 percent ahead of established churches in their attendance-to-baptism ratio.

In other news

■ Southern Baptists memorialized the mass shooting last summer at First Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, that left 26 worship attendees dead. First Church pastor Frank Pomeroy spoke at the June 10-11 SBC Pastors' Conference, and his wife Sherri addressed the June 11 Pastors' Wives Conference. The Pomeroyes also appeared at NAMB's June 11 Send Luncheon.

■ An evangelism task force appointed last year by outgoing SBC President Steve Gaines presented a report that included eight recommendations to help Southern Baptists at all levels of convention life become more effective in evangelism.

■ The 38 resolutions submitted to the Resolutions Committee marked the highest total since 1997. The 16 resolutions adopted by the convention addressed sexual purity among Christian leaders, gun violence, and the proper use of social media among other topics.

■ The Crossover evangelism emphasis preceding the annual meeting yielded a record 4,229

professions of faith, including 2,339 at the June 10 Harvest America crusade with evangelist Greg Laurie.

■ Gaines, in his presidential address, encouraged Southern Baptists to renew their belief in the supernatural God. "God's supernatural power is greater than any problem Southern Baptists have... Stop talking about how big your problem is and start talking about how big your God is," Gaines said.

■ The SBC executive committee continued to promote a partnership with personal finance author and speaker Dave Ramsey to help teach believers principles of biblical stewardship. Ramsey addressed the SBC annual meeting June 12 and participated in the president's panel on stewardship June 13.

■ Interim SBC executive committee president D. August Boto reported that despite numerous indicators of health in the SBC, there are also causes for concern. A "simple" remedy that would yield "gigantic" increases in Cooperative Program receipts and souls won to Christ would be for every Southern Baptist to witness and tithe, he said.

■ Texas Gov. Greg Abbott greeted annual meeting attendees, thanking Southern Baptists for their prayers and support following a shooting at Santa Fe (Texas) High School last month. Hurricane Harvey last year, and the Sutherland Springs shootings massacre in late 2017.

■ Recording Secretary John Yeats and Registration Secretary Don Currence both were reelected without opposition.

CLASSIFIEDS

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PULPIT SUPPLY AVAILABLE: Retired Southern Baptist Navy chaplain available for Sunday pulpit supply on short notice (pastor illness, vacation, rest, etc.). 100 mile radius of Hattiesburg. Deacon of Hardy Street Baptist Church. Graduate of New Orleans Baptist and Fuller Theological Seminaries. References available. Compensation unimportant. Contact him at 601-408-4608 or bennymhsby.com

Established • 2 Samuel 7:8-21

In the suggested memory verse for today's Bible lesson, God sends this message to King David by Nathan His prophet: "I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. I will make a great name for you like that of the greatest on the earth," 2 Samuel 7:9 (CSB). Do you feel like God is with you where ever you go? When God is with you, are you certain He is on your side? As you study the Biblical material for today's lesson, contemplate strongly on the question, am I on the same side of God in life? This lesson from the 7th chapter of 2 Samuel deals with important eternal questions:

1. Does verse 16 really mean that King David's house and kingdom will endure forever?
2. Who is on David's throne today, June 24, 2018?
3. When David wrote in the 23rd Psalm "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. . . . Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever," Psalm 23 (KJV), did that truth literally apply to me personally?
4. Do the opening words of the New Testament; "An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David,

. . . Matthew 1:1 (CSB), help explain 2 Samuel 7:16's (CSB) promise: "Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever."

Do these questions I have asked cause you to feel that today's focal passage deals with very important Biblical truths? Truths of great eternal significance? Truths of eternal significance to you personally?

Verse 8 has Nathan telling God's servant David: "This is what the LORD of Armies says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, to be ruler over my people Israel." Tending sheep left the shepherd "unclean," a social outcast - the family's lowest job. Out in the pasture is a lonely nowhere place to be. God basically told David, I took you from being a lowly nobody and made you King of Israel. Note: God very clearly tells us the LORD of Armies (God Himself) made this happen - David is not a self made man.



Explore the Bible

with Don Hicks

We are dependent on God's power and loving help.

"The LORD declares to you: The LORD himself will make a house for you. {A house here refers to David's dynasty - ruling family}. . . . I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom," 2 Samuel 11b-13 (CSB). The king that would follow David at his death was Solomon, a blood relative who came "from your body." As

Matthew's account of Jesus genealogy [that proves his direct descent from both King David and Abraham] clearly and openly

states "David fathered Solomon by Uriah's wife," Matthew 1:6b (CBS).

Jesus, God's one and only begotten son (John 3:16) is the complete fulfillment of the 16th verse, we have already referred to "Your house (royal dynasty) and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever," 2 Samuel 7:16 (AMP).

These are great truths of eternal significance to all people: David's kingdom will last forever and that Jesus Christ is the Eternal King on David's throne. But they can be such big worldwide truths, that their application to you personally could be tragically missed. David's twenty third Psalm can help. I quoted part of it above: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. . . . Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever," Psalm 23 (KJV). One of the most comforting thoughts in all of God's Word is "I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

Jesus uses the same comforting thought in John's Gospel, "Let not your hearts be troubled: ye believe in God believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions . . . I go and prepare a place for you. And if go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: . . . Thomas saith unto him . . . how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," John 14:1-6 (KJV).

Hicks is associational missions director for Jasper Association in Bay Springs.

Why Did Jesus Come? • Luke 1:68-79

Last week we examined the account of sin entering the world and God establishing the Law as a standard by which man was to live; but no one could completely live up to the Law. God promised to send a Savior to deliver man from his sins and provide a way of salvation, a New Covenant (Luke 22:20; Hebrews 10:16). This week we will study the prophecy of Zechariah, following the birth of his son, John the Baptist. John was the forerunner of the One sent to establish the New Covenant and free man from defeat and fear and sin.

There are many ideas set forth concerning the Lord Jesus Christ's identity and purpose. There are many prescriptions for how to rid ourselves of sin and guilt. Jesus was sent as the answer to a broken relationship with God. Jesus proclaimed that He is the only way to establish a relationship with God. (John 14:6) Jesus came to redeem us from defeat, fear and sin.

Luke 1:68-71. Jesus Christ came to redeem us from defeat.

In these verses Zechariah declares that God "...has visited and redeemed his people...a mighty Savior from the royal line of . . . David...just as He promised through His holy prophets...Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us." Luke 1:68-71 (NLT)

God spoke through Zechariah, declaring the purpose of John and Jesus' births. Man's enemies are sin and the death that it brings (Romans 3:23; 6:23) Jesus had come to defeat sin and death. Those who accept Jesus as the bringer of the New Covenant defeat the world rather than the world defeating them: "For every child of God defeats this evil world..." I John 5:4-5 (NLT).

Luke 1:72-75. Jesus Christ came to redeem us from fear.

Zechariah declares that "We have been rescued from our enemies so that we can serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live." (Vs. 73-75) Once we have accepted Jesus as the only way to be united with the Father (the New Covenant), God's Holy Spirit indwells us. A Believer does not need to be afraid (2 Timothy 1:7); God has cast out fear (I John 4:18).

Fear can paralyze Believers. Fear

can motivate Believers to act without the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly commands us, "Do not be afraid." Jesus said these words many times. "I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." John 14:27 (NLT) Paul wrote to Timothy: "...God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT) Every Believer has access to the Power of God



Bible Studies for Life

with Lisa Bannister



through the Holy Spirit Who lives within us. God wants us to walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5), showing the world Who He Is by the way we respond to circumstances in our lives. When we live in ways contrary to His Image, we bring sorrow to His Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4, particularly vs. 30).

Luke 1:76-79. Jesus Christ came to redeem us from sin.

Pointing out that John will be the

"prophet of the Most High" (vs. 76), Zechariah prophesies that John will tell people "...how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins." Vs. 77 (NLT) Repeatedly John's sermon would be "Repent of your sins... for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." Matthew 3:2 (NLT) Jesus called all to repent (Matthew 4:17; 12:41; 21:32). The Disciples preached repentance (Mark 6:12).

Jesus declared that He had come to call those who knew they were sinners and needed to repent Luke 5:32 (NLT). Jesus lived a sinless life, gave Himself on the cross, and rose from death that man might have everlasting life. We were purchased with Jesus' blood and forgiven by our belief in His sacrifice (Ephesians 1:7).

"For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (HCSB)

Sin entered the world and defeated man. God gave the Law as a standard. God sent His Only Son to redeem us and establish the New Covenant. What a Mighty, Compassionate God we serve!

Bannister is a member of Woodville Church, Woodville.

Just for the Record



BETHEL CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, honored its graduates. Back row: Jeffrey Bond, pastor Matthew Gazaway, and Seanlee Matthews; front: Cayden Falvey.



ETHEL CHURCH, ETHEL, recently held a baby dedication for Luke Thomas McKinney. Shown are Luke, Cye, and Kellie McKinney and pastor Ralph Hunt.



Students and adults from **NAVILLA CHURCH, MCCOMB**, participated in Connect Camp at Central Hills Baptist Retreat June 7 - 10.



SULPHUR SPRINGS CHURCH, CONEHATTA, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are Seth Smith, Brodie Denson, Joni Jones, Abby Pinter, and John Mark Pinter.



HAMILTON CHURCH, HAMILTON, honored Rachel Jaudon with a plaque for faithful service for many years as church custodian. Shown are Jaudon and Robert Moore.



FIRST CHURCH, SOSO, recently honored their graduates with recognition during the worship service and at a reception in their honor. Shown, front, are Bailey Smith and Taylor Thompson; back, student minister Chris Douglas, Wesley Jones, Blake Todd, and interim pastor P. J. Weeks.



CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, recognized their deacons during homecoming services, with special recognition given to two deacons who have served for 50 years. Shown are Tommy Sasser and Danny Roberts.

In other Church News:

➤ **Woodland Church, Columbus**, is hosting Barry McCarty, July 26 - July 29, who will be speaking on The Power of Church Polity.

College News



FIRST CHURCH, FLORA, sent about 25 kids to Fuge Camp at **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE**. The vast majority are pictured at Nelson Hall on the Clinton campus in early June. The students from Madison County read the Bible, attended worship services, lived in MC residence halls and had fun during their five-day visit.



The 2017 - 2018 Travis Scholarship recipients were recognized during **BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE'S** annual Ministerial Alumni Day activities.

Staff Changes



FLOWOOD CHURCH, FLOWOOD, has called Berry Givens as associate pastor/student pastor. He is shown with his wife Nicole, son Lucas, and pastor Bobby McGuffie.

Vacation Bible School



MANTEE CHURCH, MANTEE, ended their VBS with a commencement June 10. Average 118 in attendance with a missions offering of \$1000.

In other VBS News:

➤ **Victory Church, Bassfield**: June 25 - 29, 6 - 8 p.m., ages 5 - grade 6. Nathan Barber, pastor. Call (601) 517-2829 for information.

➤ **Crystal Ridge Church, Louisville**: June 18 - 20, 6 - 8 p.m., ages 4 - adult.